

Appln No. 10/826,494
Amdt date August 31, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 3, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 of this application are under initial rejection under Section 102(b) based on U.S. Patent 4,720,640 - Anderson. The disclosure of this patent, however, differs significantly from applicant's invention, and reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Applicant's invention is directed to a diffuser-augmented wind turbine having centrally joined turbine blades which are supported within a rotor drum. The rotor drum is in turn rotatably supported within a stationary diffuser outer-housing outer shell. As explained in the application, this construction eliminates need for a rotatable central shaft for supporting the turbine blades, and for shaft-supporting struts or stanchions which to some extent disturb wind flow, and increase complexity of the assembly.

The cited prior-art Anderson patent teaches away from, rather than toward applicant's configuration. Anderson discloses a wind-turbine assembly using a ring member 36 supporting the radially outer ends of turbine blades 34. The inner ends of the blades, however, are secured to a shaft-supported central hub 32 which is in turn rotatably mounted in a structurally complex central support structure 10. Because ring member 36 makes a nonsupporting clearance fit within a shroud

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20, a plurality of stationary struts or stanchions 42 and 44 extending inwardly from the shroud are required to support central support structure 10. The need for supportive struts or stanchions is eliminated in applicant's design.

The distinctions between the Anderson disclosure and applicant's invention are emphasized in amended claim 1, and a newly added independent claim 8. All claims in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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